

When Johanna was elected to the Orange County School Board in 2018, she became the first Puerto-Rican born Board Member in the school district's history. Her campaign was fully organized and run by current and former Orange County Public School students. Not long after, Johanna was honored to be named the Executive Director for Voces Unidas por la Educación Publica, a Latinx coalition that mobilizes, engages and educates Hispanic communities on legislative issues and topics in their native language.

Today, she is the Executive Director of the Alianza Center, a non-profit that serves the Puerto Rican and broader Hispanic communities of Florida by developing and promoting leadership, the environment, healthy living, and civic engagement.

Throughout her time as an educator, a school board member, and a community leader, Johanna has touched countless lives and made a positive impact on our Central Florida community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Johanna López.

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HONORING PATRICIA GASTAUD-GALLAGHER

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Gastaud-Gallagher for her monumental contributions to the California wine community.

Born on April 25, 1945 in Wilmington, Delaware, Patricia Gastaud-Gallagher received her bachelor's degree in Government from Connecticut College for Women in 1967. Two years after receiving her first degree, she became a freelance journalist and editor for the International Herald Tribune. It was during this time that Ms. Gastaud-Gallagher discovered her niche for wine and became the first Director of Académie du Vin in Paris, France, from 1973 until 1989. Académie du Vin, founded by Steven Spurrier in 1973, is France's first private wine school dedicated to teaching wine appreciation. With the desire to further her

wine education, Ms. Gastaud-Gallagher received a degree as an Oenology Technician with honors from the Université de Bourgogne in Dijon, France in 1988.

As a result of Ms. Gastaud-Gallagher's love for wine and her determination to showcase California wine, she helped organize the famous May 24, 1976 Judgement of Paris blind wine tasting along with Steven Spurrier. This event attracted international attention to the astounding quality of Napa Valley wines, which had outperformed France's top wines in tasting. Ms. Gastaud-Gallagher continued to influence the world of wine through her various roles as a writer and academic. She first became a columnist for two wine publications, *l'Amateur de Bordeaux* and *Cuisine & Vins de France* from 1985 until 1991. Shortly after these positions, she became Editorial Director for the International Who's Who in Wines & Spirits. As a result of her contributions in the French wine industry, Ms. Gastaud-Gallagher became one of the few non-French natives to receive the Chevalier du Mérite Agricole in 1993. Two years later, she became the Academic Director and Director of the Wine Department at Le Cordon Bleu, a school in Paris dedicated to providing world-class culinary and hospitality instruction.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that Patricia Gastaud-Gallagher has made a lasting impact on the Napa Valley wine community and California's standing in the world of wine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
RON KAGAN FROM THE DETROIT  
ZOO

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 8, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Kagan on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 28 years of service to the Detroit Zoological Society. His nearly three decades of service to the animals, staff, and patrons of the Detroit Zoo is worthy of commendation.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Kagan studied Zoology at the University of Massachusetts and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Prior to coming to Detroit, he worked at the Jerusalem Zoo and the Dallas Zoo and Aquarium. Mr. Kagan first served as Director of the Detroit Zoo before becoming the Executive Director CEO of the Detroit Zoological Society.

During Mr. Kagan's tenure at the Detroit Zoo, he was responsible for many impressive new exhibits, programs, and conservation efforts. These include the National Amphibian Conservation Center, the Berman Academy for Humane Education, the Ford Education Center and several exciting exhibits such as Arctic Ring of Life, Australian Outback Adventure, and the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation Red Panda Forest. Mr. Kagan has led the way in conservation and sustainability at the Detroit Zoo. In 2015, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums named the Detroit Zoo the greenest zoo in the United States. Under the leadership of Mr. Kagan, the successful Greenprint sustainability program has been instrumental in transitioning the Zoo to 100 percent renewable energy.

An advocate for compassionate conservation and animal welfare, he has encouraged the rescue of exotic animals and created the Center for Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare and Ethics. In 2004, the Detroit Zoo was the first zoo to decide to no longer keep elephants in captivity for ethical reasons, the Zoo's beloved elephants were sent to a sanctuary in California to live the rest of their lives in peace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ron Kagan for his exemplary years of service. Mr. Kagan's visionary leadership has transformed the Detroit Zoo for the better. His endless compassion for animals and the wellbeing of his entire community has made a true difference in the lives of those big and small. We thank him once again for his lifelong dedication to animal welfare and sustainability and to leaving a better world for the next generation. I join with Ron's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.